Serial No.: 10/057,736

Page 2

Amended Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Sterile container for the accommodation and sterile storage, in particular, of surgical instruments or material, comprising a receiving area formed by a container base and container walls, wherein the receiving area comprises comprising a plurality of separate chambers formed by intermediate walls of the container which divide the receiving area, wherein:

each chamber has its own $\underline{\text{separate}}$ cover as closure element, and

wherein a seal is seated between each chamber and its
closure element.

- 2. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the closure element is arranged so as to be pivotable.
- 3. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein a closure element is arranged by means of a sliding guide means.
- 4. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the closure element is at least partially transparent.
- 5. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the sterile container is manufactured at least partially from a transparent material.
- 6. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the seal is adapted to be acted upon by underpressure.
- 7. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the sterile container has openings in the container base and/or

M

Serial No.: 10/057,736

Page 3

outer container walls.

- 8. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 7, comprising a sterile filter for covering the openings.
- 9. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 8, comprising a sterile filter for several chambers.
- 10. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 8, wherein the sterile filter is seated beneath the container base.
- 11. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the sterile container has a holder for a sterile filter.
- 12. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 11, wherein the holder is detachable from the sterile container.
- 13. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 11, wherein the holder is arranged on the sterile container so as to be pivotable.
 - 14. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 11, wherein the sterile filter is held in the holder by means of a spring catch.
 - 15. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 8, wherein a protective grating is seated between sterile filter and sterile container.
 - 16. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 15, wherein the protective grating is permeable to steam.



Serial No.: 10/057,736

Page 4

17. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 15, wherein the protective grating is insertable into a holder for the sterile filter.

- 18. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 8, wherein at least one chamber has a limiting element provided with openings facing the sterile filter.
- 19. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 18, wherein the limiting element is a respective part of the container base.
- 20. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 19, wherein a limiting element provided with openings for several chambers is formed in one piece.
- 21. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 18, wherein the limiting element provided with openings of the at least one chamber is detachable.

D۱